

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03812 211851Z

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /008 W

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P 211700Z NOV 74K

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4644

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR AF/ACTING DEPUTY ASST SECY MULCAHY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, CM

SUBJ: TRANSCAM RAILROAD INAUGURATION

REF: STATE 255823

1. JUST PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTEL, DCM SAW HIGH PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF TRANSCAM INAUGURATION (SAMUEL LIBOCK) TO ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY WHO BEING INVITED, ARRANGEMENTS, ETC. I HAD RECEIVED ON NOV 20 LETTER DATED NOV 7 FROM JANET HALL DIGGS INDICATING INVITATIONS THROUGH CAMEROON EMBASSY FOR DON EASUM, THREE FORMER AMBASSADORS AND ALL FOUR WIVES, BUT NOTHING ABOUT SAM ADAMS OR DISDIER OF AID.

2. LIBOCK SAID PRESIDENT HAD INVITED, THROUGH CAMEROON EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, FORMER AMBASSADORS BARROWS, PAYTON AND HOFFACKER; THAT ALL HAD ACCEPTED; AND THAT GURC FURNISHING ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORT TO YAOUNDE AS WELL AS TREATING THEM AS GUESTS OF GOVERNMENT FOR LODGING, FOOD AND INTERNAL TRANSPORT WHILE IN COUNTRY. INVITATIONS, HE SAID, DID NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE WIVES (CF. JANET'S LETTER). MIGHT BE WORTHWILE TO CLARIFY AT YOUR END WITH FORMER AMBASSADORS TO AVOID POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. LIBOCK ALSO SAID THAT WHILE INVITATIONS SPECIFIED ARRIVAL DEC 8 AT LATEST, HE STRONGLY PREFERRED DEC 7 ARRIVAL SINCE VARIOUS CEREMONIES SCHEDULED DEC 8 IN CONNECTION WITH UNEAC TENTH

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03812 211851Z

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

3. LIBOCK ALSO SHOWED DCM XEROX COPY OF LETTER DATED OCT 29 FROM PRESIDENT AHIDJO TO DON ESSUM INVITING EASUM TO INAUGURATION CEREMONIES, REQUESTING REPLY BY NOV 15, ASKING FOR INDICATION ARRIVAL TIME DEC 8, AND ASKING FOR "NAMES AND CAPACITIES OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE ACCOMPANYING." HERE TOO, LIBOCK SAID, GURC NOW PREFERRED DEC 7 ARRIVAL DATE. EASUM INVITED AS TOP US OFFICIAL FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, I.E., THE ONE "WHO KNOWS OUR PROBLEMS BEST." GURC THUS HOPES HE WILL COME AS USG REPRESENTATIVE, BUT WOULD WANT HIM TO DESIGNATE SOMEONE IN HIS PLACE IF UNABLE ATTEND PERSONALLY. AS DISTINGUISHED FROM FORMER AMBASSADORS, USG (AND OTHER COUNTRY AND INT'S ORG) OFFICIALS REPS EXPECTED HAVE WAY PAID TO YAOUNDE BY OWN GOVTS/ORGANIZATIONS, BUT WILL BE CONSIDERED AND TREATED AS GURC GUESTS ONCE HERE.

4. IN RESPONSE DCM INQUIRY, LIBOCK CHECKED INVITATION LISTS AND COULD FIND NAMES OF NEITHER ADAMS NOR DISDIER. HE INDICATED WITH GENUINE REGRET THAT ORIGINAL LIST WHICH INCLUDED MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD PLAYED ROLE IN RAILROAD PROJECT HAD TO BE SEVERELY PRUNED BECAUSE OF EXTREMELY LIMITED FACILITIES IN NGAOUNDERE. EMPHASIZED IN THIS REGARD THAT INVITATION WAS TO EASUM AS USG REPRESENTATIVE. (WE WERE GLAD TO LEARN FROM REFTEL THAT LIBOCK WAS IN ERROR AND ADAMS HAS INDEED BEEN INVITED.)

5. PLANS, FOR INFO OF US-BASED INVITEES, ARE FOR THEM TO BE TRANSPORTED BY PLANE TO NGAOUNDERE AM DEC 9 AND FLOWN BACK TO YAOUNDE EVENING DEC 10. SOME GUESTS -- PERHAPS THE LESS DISTINGUISHED ONES AND LOCALLY RESIDENT DIGNITARIES -- WILL TRAVEL TO NGAOUNDERE AND BACK BY TRAIN (SLEEPER) NIGHTS OF DEC 9/10 AND 10/11.

6. IT APPEARS THAT ATTENDEES AT CEREMONIES WILL INCLUDE UDEAC CHIEFS OF STATE PLUS POSSIBLY MACIAS AND MOBUTU, FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION ABELIN, FOUR EEC REPS POSSIBLY LED BY PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND INCLUDING OTHER COMMISSIONERS, REPS OF CANADIAN AND WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS POSSIBLY AT DEPUTY MINISTER (PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY/STATE SECRETARY) LEVEL.

7. EMBASSY AND GURC WOULD BE MOST PLEASED IF EASUM COULD REPRESENT US. AS TOP USG REP HE WOULD HAVE CHANCE MINGLE WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 YAOUND 03812 211851Z

OTHER LOFTY CHIEF REPS (BUT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO DEVOTE TIME AND ENERGIES LARGELY TO CEREMONIES AND NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-DEPTH EXCHANGES WITH AHIDJO AND OTHER GURC LEADERS AND EXPOSURE TO CAMEROON THAT VISIT HERE AT QUITER TIME WOULD AFFORD). IF EASUM UNABLE TO COME OUR OWN ORDER OF CHOICES FOR TOP USG REP WOULD BE SAM ADAMS (WHO IS WELL KNOWN HERE), AMBASSADOR BARROWS (AS FIRST AND LONG-TIME AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON), AMBASSADOR MULCAHY (AS SENIOR DEPUTY). OTHER POSSIBILITIES MAY

OCCUR TO YOU BUT THEY SHOULD EITHER BE WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES
OF STATURE OR HAVE HAD SOME SIGNIFICANT CONTACT WITH CAMEROON.
WE SUGGEST HUTCHISON BE INCLUDED AS OFFICIAL ACCOMPANYING
TOP USG REP.

8. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, BEFORE WE SPEAK AGAIN WITH LIBOCK
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU (A) TO CONFIRM TO US THAT
DON EASUM HAS INDEED RECEIVED HIS INVITATION FROM AHIDJO,
(B) INDICATE WHETHER HE ABLE ATTEND OR, IF NOT, WHO WILL BE
DESIGNEE, AND (C) GIVE US MORE PRECISE INDICATION OF LIKE-
LIHOOD OF SAM ADAMS ATTENDING. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

9. I AM SENDING SEPTTEL TO DON EASUM EXPANDING RECOMMENDATIONS
RE HIS ATTENDANCE.
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